



FIRE MOBILIZATION NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center
Camp Murray, Washington



For immediate release
News Release No. 1
July 30, 2004 / 5:40 p.m.

Contact: Greg Pressel, Washington State Patrol, 253-912-4936
Mark Clemens, Washington Emergency Management Division,
800-688-8955

Fire Mobilization Ordered for Elk Heights Fire in Kittitas County

CAMP MURRAY –State fire assistance has been mobilized to support local firefighters working to contain a wildfire which threatens as many as 200 residences and structures in the Elk Heights area of Kittitas County.

Elk Heights lies between Cle Elum and Thorp along Interstate 90, approximately 10 miles west of Ellensburg. The fire is burning between I-90 and to State Route 10 to the north.

Washington State Patrol Chief Lowell Porter authorized the State Fire Services Mobilization Plan at 5:15 p.m. today, moments before firefighting teams were dispatched to support Kittitas County from Grant, Walla Walla and Yakima counties.

At 3:50 p.m. today, Kittitas County fire officials reported the fire had burned 100-300 acres and was threatening residences in addition to power lines and forested, brushy areas. The temperature is hovering near 100 degrees, with 30 m.p.h. winds gusting to 40 m.p.h.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray activated at 5:15 p.m. to coordinate state assistance for the Elk Heights Fire. Staff from the Washington State Patrol's Fire Protection Bureau and the State Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department have reported to the EOC.

The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when wildfires exceed the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions.

The State Enhanced 911 Office in cooperation with local telephone carriers reminds all citizens in the affected area to:

- Stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need to make a telephone call. Remember a FAX or a computer also uses a telephone line and its use may affect your ability to get immediate help in a life-threatening emergency.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unless you need an emergency response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
- If you experience other types of problems not related to these emergency services, call the appropriate telephone number for those services.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. 9-1-1 lines must be kept open for people who have a true emergency.
- If you pick up your telephone to make a call and do not hear dial tone, DO NOT HANG UP. Simply wait a few seconds, and you will get dial tone and be able to make your call.

###